

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7 and 14 have been amended as suggested by the examiner. It is believed that this amendment overcomes the examiner's objections.

Claims 3 and 4 have amended to recited that the binder to which reference is made is the "binder component." It is believed that this amendment overcomes the examiner's Section 112, second paragraph, rejection.

Claim 1 has been further amended to insert the limitation of claim 5, and claim 10 has been amended to insert the limitation of claim 11. Claims 5 and 11 have, accordingly, been canceled.

Claims 15-20 are newly added. Support may be found e.g., in the claims as originally filed, and in the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9, page 9, second full paragraph. No new matter has been added by way of amendment.

Claims 1-4 and 6-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as obvious obvious over Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0016406 (Chen et al.).

Applicants' disagree.

Chen et al. describe a composition comprising acrylate microspheres and a crosslinked acrylic polymer and, optionally, a functionally effective amount of one or more auxiliary ingredients for modifying coating or enhancing adhesive performance. Required for use as the crosslinked acrylic polymer is a low Tg acrylic emulsion polymer, which has a Tg of -10°C to -50°C. The use of latex particles, specifically Acusol ® 830 as a viscosity modifier is described by Chen et al. in paragraph [0092].

Acusol ® 830 is a conventional thickener. As described in paragraph [0071] of Chen et al, this component is used in amounts effective (about 1 to about 5 wt. %) to increase viscosity of the aqueous adhesive compositions for processing requirements. There is no disclosure that this may be used to modify adhesive performance, let alone peel and tack, or that the ratio of two substantially different binders can be changed to modify such performance. Chen et al. do not disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

Applicants submit that the claimed invention represents an important and patentable contribution to the art. Early and favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia L. Foulke
Reg. No. 32,364

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National Starch and Chemical Company
P.O. Box 6500
Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807-0500

(908) 685-7483